

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 PARIS 12095 01 OF 02 251705Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----251724Z 110809 /44  
O 251703Z APR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2092

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 12095

EXDIS

E.O.11652: XGDS-3  
TAGS: PFOR US VN  
SUBJ: US/VN RELATIONS: PARIS TALKS, MODALITIES

REF: PARIS 11523

1. SRV LIAISON OFFICER DO THANH CAME TO THE EMBASSY  
AT 1730 APRIL 25 TO GIVE HANOI'S RESPONSE TO HIS  
REPORT OF OUR CONVERSATION OF APRIL 20 (REFTEL)  
CONCERNING THE MODALITIES OF THE PARIS TALKS.

### A. PLACE

THE SRV WILL WISH TO CONTINUE TO USE THE  
AVENUE MADRID AS ITS SITE, AND ACCEPTS THE LOCATION IN  
B BUILDING OF THE EMBASSY AS THE US SITE. AS FOR  
INFORMING THE FRENCH, THEY ACCEPT OUR SUGGESTION THAT  
THE HOST DO IT, AND THEY ACCORDINGLY INFORMED THE GOF  
TODAY THAT THEY WOULD BE HOSTING THE FIRST MEETING  
MAY 3.

### B. COMPOSITION OF DELEGATION.

HANOI WISHED TO ADD DO THANH TO THE  
VIETNAMESE DELEGATION; HIS NAME SHOULD OCCUR AFTER THAT  
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OF CUONG. DO THANH WILL ALSO REMAIN THE LIAISON  
OFFICER FOR THE DELEGATION. TRAN THIEN CAN WILL BE  
THE VIETNAMESE PRESS OFFICER, THE COUNTERPART OF  
MORTON SMITH. HE WILL NOT BE A PART OF THE DELEGATION.  
THE TOTAL VIETNAMESE GROUP WILL NOW BE 7, 5 MEMBERS  
OF THE DELEGATION, AN INTERPRETER, AND A PRESS  
OFFICER. THE VIETNAMESE HAVE NO OBJECTION TO OUR

PRESS OFFICER'S ATTENDING THE MEETING.

C. LANGUAGES.

PHAN HIEN HAS NOW DECIDED THAT HE WILL SPEAK IN VIETNAMESE WHICH TAM WILL THEN TRANSLATE INTO ENGLISH. SINCE HOLBROOKE WILL BE SPEAKING ENGLISH, WE CAN EITHER HAVE OUR OWN INTERPRETER TRANSLATE HIS ENGLISH INTO FRENCH, WHICH IS UNDERSTOOD BY THE VIETNAMESE DELEGATION, OR TAM COULD TRANSLATE HOLBROOKE'S ENGLISH DIRECTLY INTO VIETNAMESE. DO THANH COMMENTED PERHAPS THE US WOULD FEEL ITS OWN INTERPRETER FOR FRENCH WOULD PROVIDE A MORE FAITHFUL VERSION. EMBOFF COMMENTED THAT WOODCOCK COMMISSION HAD BEEN VERY PLEASED WITH THE COMPETENCE OF THE VIETNAMESE

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----251716Z 110821 /46

O 251703Z APR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2093

S E C R E T SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 12095

EXDIS

INTERPRETER AND WOULD HAVE NO OBJECTION TO HIS INTERPRETING INTO VIETNAMESE FOR OUR SIDE AS WELL. PARTICULARLY WITH QUINN PRESENT, WE WERE SURE THAT WE COULD AVOID MISUNDERSTANDINGS. WE AGREED TO REPORT THIS POINT BACK TO OUR RESPECTIVE GOVERNMENTS AND TO BE IN TOUCH ON THEIR REACTION.

D. (1.) DURATION OF MEETINGS.

PHAN HIEN AGREES TO THE MEETING ON THE MORNING OF MAY 3. HE BELIEVES IT WOULD BE BETTER TO DISCUSS AT THAT TIME WHETHER THE SECOND MEETING SHOULD BE THE AFTERNOON OF THE 3RD OR THE MORNING OF THE 4TH.

EMBOFF COMMENTED THAT WE AGREED THAT FLEXIBILITY IN SETTING OF MEETINGS WOULD BE MOST EFFECTIVE AND THE PROGRESS IN ONE MEETING WOULD BEST INDICATE WHEN THE NEXT MIGHT TAKE PLACE.

(2.) EXCHANGE OF TEXTS.

DO THANH SAID THEY HAD FOUND THE EXCHANGE OF THE OPENING STATEMENT ASSISTED BOTH THE NOTETAKERS AND THE INTERPRETER, BUT PHAN HIEN WISHES TO POSTPONE A FINAL DECISION CONCERNING TEXTS UNTIL HE ARRIVES IN PARIS.

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2. COMMENT: DO THANH SAID HE DID NOT KNOW PRECISELY WHEN PHAN HIEN WOULD BE ARRIVING, BUT HE KNEW THAT IT WOULD BE SEVERAL DAYS PRIOR TO THE BEGINNING OF THE TALKS. WE SHALL PROBABLY LEARN OF THE ARRIVAL FROM THE FRENCH OR DO THARH AND WILL REPORT.

HARLAN

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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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